



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

NEWS RELEASE

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL CLEANUP PROTECTS STUDENTS AT WATTS HIGH SCHOOL

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced completion of the hazardous waste cleanup activities at the S & W Atlas facility that contaminated the sports field of Jordon High School in Watts. The cleanup stemmed from a June 2004 civil complaint that DTSC filed in the Los Angeles Superior Court, seeking removal of hazardous waste debris, and cleanup of soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metals from the site and the adjacent high school.

In 2006, Atlas removed and disposed of hazardous waste piles on site, overseen by U.S. EPA's emergency response team. Work on the final phase of the clean up began in May and was completed earlier this month. The final phase of cleanup included:

- Surveying the Atlas/Jordan property lines.
- Installing a temporary 10-foot chain link fence with a woven screen at the Atlas/Jordan boundary.
- Demolishing an existing wall that separates the Atlas site from the Jordon High School baseball field.
- Preparing, backfilling and compacting clean soil and gravel over any remaining contamination.
- Grading and repaving the areas with reinforced concrete
- Replacing the wall.

The civil case, settled on April 3, required Atlas to pay DTSC \$350,000 dollars, \$210,000 as reimbursement for costs incurred by DTSC in removing contaminated soil from the Jordan High School sports field.

The three-acre facility, in operation since 1949, purchases and prepares metals – iron, steel, aluminum, copper, lead and zinc – for recycling. It is located at 10019 South Alameda Street in South Los Angeles.

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.